

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system, comprising:

a primary station operable to periodically transmit a random access channel status message, the status message including an indicated highest available data rate on a plurality of available random access channels; and

a plurality of secondary stations operable to receive the random access channel status message,

wherein each secondary station is operable to determine which random access channel to request based on the random access channel status message; and

wherein the highest available data bit rate of the random access channel status message is indicated for each of the plurality of available random access channels in order to enable each secondary station to determine which random access channel to request;

and

wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.

Claims 16-17 (Canceled)

18.(Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

19.(Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

Claims 20-29 (Canceled)

30.(Currently Amended) A radio communication method, comprising:

~~Transmitting~~ transmitting, periodically from a primary station, a random access channel status message, the status message including an indicated highest available data rate on a plurality of available random access channels;

receiving, at each of a plurality of secondary stations, the random access channel

status message;

selecting, at each secondary station, a selected random access channel based on the received random access channel status message;

requesting, by each secondary station, the selected random access channel from the primary station;

wherein the highest available bit rate of the random access channel status message is indicated for each of the plurality of available random access channels in order to enable each secondary station to determine which random access channel to request, and

wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.

Claims 31-32 (Canceled)

33.(Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

34.(Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

35.(Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether the corresponding random access channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

Claims 36-41 (Canceled)